

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales



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THE CANTERBURY TALES

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400)

Edited by D. Laing Purves (1838-1873)

One of the earliest and greatest classics of English literature, *The Canterbury Tales* is a collection of stories written in Middle English by Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century (two of them in prose, the rest in verse). The tales -- some of which are originals and others not -- are contained inside a frame tale and told by a group of pilgrims on their way from Southwark to Canterbury Cathedral to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.

The themes of the tales vary, and include topics such as courtly love, treachery, and avarice. The genres also vary, and include romance, Breton lai, sermon, beast fable, and fabliau. The version read here was edited by D. Laing Purves "for popular perusal" and the language is mostly updated. (Wikipedia)

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Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Illustration from the Ellesmere Manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales*, showing Geoffrey Chaucer on horseback.

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